

Summary of School Funding Interim Commission Meeting, September 23, 2015
prepared for the Education and Local Government Interim Committee
by Pad McCracken, Commission Staff

Administrative matters

- Adopted interim committee guidelines (no proxies)
- Elected Sen. Facey as Chair, Sen. Arntzen as Vice Chair

1. Input

- Survey—recruitment and retention; adequacy of state's share; equitable distribution; educational programs to meet accreditation standards; at-risk students
- OPI—facilities and debt service GTB; special education (cooperatives and inflationary increases)
- BPE—adequate funding to recruit and retain quality educators, admin, and staff
- Public comment—families and advocates for sp ed (grad/funding age; adequate funding for quality); families and advocates for gifted and talented; TIF districts
- Ed community—recruitment and retention; facilities; special ed (inflationary increases)

2. School funding—from 50,000' overview to nitty gritty of district general fund budget

3. Resources and work plan

- GIS map from MSL; GEMS "Data Warehouse" from OPI; Mike Griffith from Education Commission of the States
- The commission determined to meet next in January 2016 for a multi-day meeting (TBD) and investigate four topics listed below and possibly some of the other topics listed below following some reflection and an online poll of commissioners

Topics for January

- Recruitment and retention
- Facilities
- Special Education (inflation factor and grad age/funding cutoff)
- District structure and boundaries (efficiencies; voluntary consolidation; impacts on taxation and transportation)

Other topics for consideration (commissioner to be polled)

Gifted and Talented

Technology

Equity issues (small schools; decrement; etc)

At-risk students (definition)

Levy system (5-year look back; flexibility; taxpayer impacts)

Budgeting timelines

Health Insurance

How to fund any increases/revenue sources

Predictability of funding

Middle school model and 6th grader funding

Fund reserve limits/local flexibility

Demographic changes a formula for the future

Federal role in ed funding